

I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking Bill and Faith Collins—a true public service family—for their commitment to improving their community.

COMMEMORATION OF TAIWAN'S 2-28 MASSACRE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 62nd commemoration of Taiwan's "2-28 Massacre."

On February 28, 1947, the brutal arrest of a female civilian in Taipei led to large-scale protests by the native Taiwanese against the repression of Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese Nationalists, who occupied Taiwan on behalf of the Allied Forces after Japan's defeat in 1945.

During the following days, Chiang's government sent troops from mainland China to the island. The Chinese soldiers began capturing and executing leading Taiwanese lawyers, doctors, students, and other citizens.

It is estimated that at least 18,000 people lost their lives during the turmoil. During the following four decades, the Chinese Nationalists continued to rule Taiwan under a martial law system that lasted until 1987.

The 2-28 event had far-reaching implications. Over the next half-century, the Taiwanese democracy movement that grew out of the incident helped pave the way for Taiwan's momentous transformation from a dictatorship under the Chinese Nationalists to a thriving and pluralistic democracy.

In some ways, the 2-28 incident was similar to the "Boston Massacre" that occurred in the Massachusetts colony in 1770. Both events launched a movement toward full democracy and helped galvanize a struggle for independence.

I urge other Members to join me in commemorating this important historical event.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN BRAD CONNORS, USN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Captain Brad Connors, USN, who will be retiring after turning over command of Naval Base Ventura County on Friday.

I have worked closely on a number of endeavors with Captain Connors over the past three years. He is the consummate professional military officer and gentleman.

Since he graduated the United States Naval Academy in 1982 and earned his wings in 1984, Captain Connors has logged more than 4,500 flight hours and 900 carrier landings in several different aircraft. He has served as squadron executive officer and commander and flew missions over Iraq in support of Operation Southern Watch. During this tour, his squadron was awarded the Navy's "Battle E" in recognition of superior squadron readiness and mission performance.

Following a Korean Peninsula deployment onboard USS Kittyhawk, Captain Connors led

a multi-squadron maintenance detachment in support of TopGun's transition to F/A18s and the very first Strike Fighter Instructor Course.

In December 1995, Captain Connors became an instructor at the Naval Strike Warfare Center in Nevada. His first official duty was to serve on the integration team that facilitated the merger of "TopGun," "Strike," and "TopDome" into the newly formed Naval Strike and Air Warfare Center (NSAWC). Following NSAWC's commissioning, Captain Connors became its first Air Wing Training Officer. Under his direction, integrated air warfare training and standardization went through a complete renaissance, including development of the Air Interdiction Mission Commander's Course the very first Strike Leader flying syllabus.

Captain Connors also served as Cruiser Destroyer Group ONE's Air Operations and Operations Officer onboard the *USS Constellation* following graduation from the Naval War College. During this tour, Captain Connors contributed to Iraqi Freedom operational planning, flew combat missions, and oversaw the integration of more than 140 coalition combatants in support of the operation's maritime objectives.

At Naval Base Ventura County, Captain Connors commands its more than 90 tenants, 6,000 military personnel, 9,000 civilian employees and 3,000 contractors at Point Mugu, the Naval Construction Battalion Center at Port Hueneme, the Channel Islands Air National Guard, 146th Airlift Wing, and the base's 36,000-square-mile sea test range—the largest in the world. He has done an exemplary job.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Captain Brad Connors for his decades of service to his country and the U.S. Navy and in wishing him great success in his retirement.

'MR. AMIGO 2008' JOSÉ SULAIMÁN

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the 2008 "Mr. Amigo," José Sulaimán, chosen recently by the Mr. Amigo Association of Brownsville, TX, and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, in Mexico. Sulaimán has spent his life in the sport of boxing, best known as the president of the World Boxing Council for more than three decades.

The Mr. Amigo Award began in 1964 as an annual tribute to an outstanding Mexican citizen who has made a lasting contribution during the previous year to international solidarity and goodwill. "Mr. Amigo" acts as an ambassador between our two countries and presides over the annual Charro Days festival.

The Charro Days festival, held in Brownsville and Matamoros, is an opportunity to enjoy the unique border culture of the Rio Grande Valley area. A Lenten event, much like Mardi Gras in New Orleans, the festival was organized in 1937 by the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce to recognize Mexican culture and was named in honor of the charros, "dashing Mexican gentlemen cowboys." The festival includes parades complete with floats, as well as street dances, a carnival, mariachi and ma-

rimba concerts, and ballet folklorico performances by school students.

In 1968, Sulaimán joined the World Boxing Council (WBC) and quickly moved through the ranks. In 1975, Sulaimán was unanimously elected president of the WBC and has served in that capacity ever since. Under his leadership, the WBC has instituted many new rules and regulations regarding boxers' safety and welfare, and has funded brain injury research programs at UCLA. Outside of boxing, Sulaimán, who speaks Spanish, English, Arabic, Italian, Portuguese and French, successfully operates a medical supply company in Mexico.

The United States-Mexico border has a unique, blended history of cowboys, bandits, lawmen, farmers, fishermen, oil riggers, soldiers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and teachers. The Charro Days festival reflects that deep sense of shared history and experiences, which is needed now more than ever. It is a time for all of us to not only remember our past, but to celebrate our future.

The Charro Days festival and the Mr. Amigo Award unite sister cities on both sides of the border and send a message that we are neighbors, and friends that trust, understand, and respect each other. We share a language, customs, and experiences unique to our communities, and during Charro Days we take time to celebrate our distinctive culture.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commending José Sulaimán, the 2008 Mr. Amigo, as well as the cities of Brownsville and Matamoros, for their dedication to international goodwill between the United States and Mexico.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 23, 2009, I incorrectly recorded two votes. Please let the record show that I intended to vote the following way: roll No. 72—"nay," roll No. 73—"nay."

SAFE DRUG DISPOSAL ACT OF 2009

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 2009

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Congressman INSLEE, to support the "Safe Drug Disposal Act of 2009," legislation that will address the risks to our families, our communities, and the environment from unwanted or unused drugs that are left in the home or that are disposed of improperly.

Drug waste is a problem at every juncture of the health care system. Medications can accumulate in numerous settings—in nursing homes, hospitals, and hospice care facilities, and in home-based care settings and private residences. To encourage safe disposal of these drugs, many communities have developed take-back programs or sponsored collection events that allow consumers to properly